

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on May 4, 2004.

Claims 1, 8, and 16 are amended; as a result, claims 1-20 are now pending in this application.

The amendments are made to overcome the present rejections and place the claims in condition for allowance. The amendments do not add new material and are consistent with the original filed specification. Moreover, the amendments are made to clarify what the Examiner has asked to be clarified with respect to the independent claims. Therefore, Applicant believes the amendments are proper and do not necessitate a new search. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully request that the amendments be entered.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 8 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, and 16 as the Examiner has requested to remove the negative limitations included therein. Correspondingly, Applicant believes that this amendment is made for purposes of overcoming the rejection and placing the application in condition for allowance. Therefore, the amendment is proper and the Applicant respectfully request that it be entered and that the present rejections be withdrawn.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-9, 11 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jindal (U.S. 5,845,273) in view of Bauer et al. (U.S. 5,926,816). It is of course fundamental that in order to sustain obviousness rejections that each and every step in the rejected claims be taught or suggested in the proposed combination of cited references. Here, the combination of references do not teach generating a table, and do not teach a keyword field in the manners that are now positively recited in Applicant's amended independent claims.

Initially, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference prior arguments made with respect to the Jindal and Bauer references. Next, Applicant would again like to point out that Jindal teaches a large centralized index file that is not a table and is not generated having the novel limitations that are now positively recited in Applicant's amended independent claims. Additionally, the teachings of Bauer rely on multiple schemas, not a single schema for a generated table having the novel limitations that are now positively recited in Applicant's amended independent claims.

Applicant's amended independent claims now positively recite a keyword field having novel limitations that are not taught or suggested in the Jindal or Bauer references in isolation or in combination with one another. Specifically, the keyword field includes two field names, each field name associated with a separate external table. The keyword value field includes two values and these are associated with a single keyword field having two separate and distinct field names, each field name for a separate external table.

One way to achieve this was described in the specification, where the two field names represent a single string value within the keyword field that can be evaluated to acquire the two separate and distinct field names, which are identified in the single keyword field. This permits disparate database tables having disparate fields for essentially the same content (*e.g.*, "Full Name" and "Legal Name") to be integrated and represented within a single schema and a single field of that schema (keyword field). These separate fields can have separate values using the single keyword value field. Essentially, a many-to-many relationship is achieved within a single schema through the novel implementation and use of two fields within that schema (keyword field and keyword value field). This cannot be done with the teachings of Jindal or Bauer and cannot be done with the Examiner's proposed combination of Jindal and Bauer.

Accordingly, Applicant asserts that there is no teaching of such a keyword field and schema generation as is now positively recited in Applicant's amended independent claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the present rejections be withdrawn along with an indication that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 10 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jindal in view of Bauer et al., and further in view of Draper et al. (U.S. 6,581,062). Claim 4 is

dependent from amended independent claim 1, and claims 17-20 are dependent from amended independent claim 16. Thus, these claims should be allowed and their rejections withdrawn, based on the amendments and comments presented above with respect to amended independent claims 1 and 16.

Claims 7 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jindal in view of Bauer et al., and further in view of Hoover et al. (U.S. 5,560,005). Claim 7 is dependent from amended independent claim 1, and claims 12-14 are dependent from amended independent claim 8. Thus, these claims should be allowed and their rejections withdrawn, based on the amendments and comments presented above with respect to amended independent claims 1 and 8.

Serial Number: 09/833,915

Filing Date: April 12, 2001

Title: METHODS FOR DYNAMICALLY CONFIGURING THE CARDINALITY OF KEYWORD ATTRIBUTES

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (513) 942-0224 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

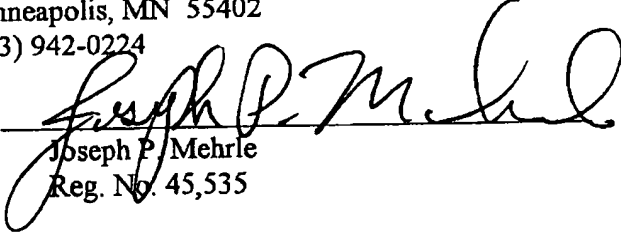
Respectfully submitted,

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Date 7-1-04

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 1st day of July, 2004.

Peter Rebuffoni

Name


Signature